

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-10 SS-15 NSC-05 SAJ-01 EA-10 H-02

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R 162015Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0177

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 08036

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA COMMENT - US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS

1. IN RECENT WEEKS THE QUESTION OF AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO WESTERN EUROPE HAS DOMINATED COMMENTARIES IN WEST GERMANY'S MEDIA. FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLING SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MAY :
2. FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (LEFT-CENTER), MAY 16: THE FEDERAL (GERMAN) GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES YESTERDAY MADE A STRONG PLEDGE FOR FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND FOR EXTENSION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC DEFENSE TREATY. A NATO DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT MADE CLEAR THAT NONE OF THE PARTIES FEARS NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE ALLIANCE FROM DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER REFERRED TO THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE AS A "COMMUNITY OF FATE" OF LASTING DURATION.
3. RHEINISCHE POST (PRO-CDU); GUENTHER DE THIER, MAY 16: "IN THE MAYAGUEZ CASE, THE U.S. HAS STOOD UP

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TO THE FIRST TEST OF STRENGTH OF THE POST-VIETNAM TIME

IN ASIA. AMERICA HAS PROVED THAT DESPITE THE BITTER DEFEAT IN INDOCHINA, THE NATION IS NEITHER A 'HELPLESS GIANT' NOR A 'PAPER TIGER'..."

4. SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL), MAY 16:
"THE TWO COMMUNIST SUPERPOWERS SHOULD STUDY U.S. REACTION TO THE SEIZURE OF THE MAYAGUEZ CLOSELY AND READ KISSINGER'S (ST. LOUIS) ADDRESS CAREFULLY, IN WHICH HE WARNED MOSCOW AGAINST EXPLOITING STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY ... THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE FOR THE USSR AS WELL AS FOR THE U.S. IT IS DANGEROUS TO HUMILIATE A SUPERPOWER STANDING WITH ITS BACK TO THE WALL AS AMERICA IS AFTER THE FALL OF CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM ..."

5. SECOND TV CHANNEL, MAY 15, A SPECIAL PANEL DISCUSSION ENTITLED: "ARE THE AMERICANS LEAVING US IN THE LURCH?" PARTICIPATING WERE FIVE TV CORRESPONDENTS. LOTHAR RUEHL, BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT, DISCUSSING THE LACK OF SIMILARITY BETWEEN AMERICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA AND ITS COMMITMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE, SAID:
"IN EUROPE, ONE IS NOT DEALING WITH ASIA. THAT IS A BANALITY, BUT IT MUST BE RECALLED. (IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE) THERE ARE SIMILAR SOCIETIES OF SIMILAR CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS, SIMILAR SOCIAL CONDITIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFERENCES FROM CONTINENT TO CONTINENT, SIMILAR ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS, SIMILAR RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS. HERE ONE IS DEALING WITH FIRMLY ROOTED STATES THAT HAVE THEIR OWN HISTORY AND THEIR OWN NATIONAL IDENTITY. AND THEREFORE ONE IS DEALING WITH AN ALLIANCE SITUATION BETWEEN ENTITIES THAT RESEMBLE ONE ANOTHER ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT IDENTICAL."
LATER IN THE PROGRAM THE MODERATOR ASKED EACH OF THE CORRESPONDENTS TO ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO THE QUESTION "WILL THE AMERICANS LEAVE US IN THE LURCH IN AN EMERGENCY HERE IN EUROPE, OR NOT?" FOLLOWING WERE THE REPLIES:
LOTHAR RUEHL (BRUSSELS): "NOT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. I WOULD SAY WE HAVE A LEEWAY OF 10 TO 15 YEARS."
GERHARD DAMBMANN (TOKYO): "I AM CONVINCED THAT THEY WILL NOT LEAVE US IN THE LURCH BECAUSE (THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE)
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IS JUST AS MUCH IN THEIR INTEREST AS IN OURS."
CARL WEISS (WASHINGTON): "WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK, AND IF WE OURSELVES MAKE AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM, I WOULD SAY: NO."
HANS SCHEICHER (SINGAPORE): "I DO NOT BELIEVE IT EITHER, BUT THE PROCESS OF FORMING AN OPINION IN AMERICA ALWAYS TAKES A WHILE. AND I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL REALIZE IN A FEW YEARS THAT THE AMERICANS, AND I PARTICULARLY

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R 162015Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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REFER TO CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC, WILL BRING THEMSELVES
TO SEEING THINGS WITH SOMEWHAT GREATER CLARITY."

6. PETER SCHOLL-LATOUR: (FAR EAST); LIKE LOTHAR
RUEHL, I SET A LIMIT OF 10 YEARS, WITH THE EXCEPTION
OF BERLIN, WHICH EVEN TODAY IS NO LONGER SECURE.

7. RUDOLF WOLLER: ...IF THE QUESTION WERE TO BE
ANSWERED IN ONE SENTENCE ONE WOULD HAVE TO SAY: THE
AMERICANS WILL NOT LEAVE US IN THE LURCH, BUT WE ARE
CALLED UPON TO DO WHAT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO BE (AN
EQUAL) PARTNER TO THE AMERICANS."

8. RHEINISCHER MERKUR (PRO-CDU), MAY 15:
"THERE IS A DECISIVE RAY OF LIGHT IN THE DARK POLITICAL
SCENE AS THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS NOW THAT AMERICA,
AFTER DEFINITELY TURNING AWAY FROM INDOCHINA, WILL TAKE
FRUITFUL DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES."

9. THEO SOMMER, CHIEF EDITOR OF DIE ZEIT (INDEPENDENT/
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LIBERAL) SPEAKING AT THE AMERICA HOUSE IN STUTTGART,
MAY 14, SAID THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ST. LOUIS
SPEECH OF MAY 12 GAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT U.S.-
EUROPEAN RELATIONS WILL IMPROVE. SOMMER MENTIONED
A "NEW TENOR IN THAT SPEECH. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
A LONG PERIOD, SECRETARY KISSINGER PLACED MORE
EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH
EUROPEAN ALLIES THAN UPON DETENTE EFFORTS." SOMMER
SAID HE CONSIDERS THIS "POSITIVE AND HEALTHY."

10. DER TAGESSPIEGEL (INDEPENDENT), BERLIN, MAY 14:
"SECRETARY KISSINGER'S IMPENDING TRIP TO EUROPE
AND IN PARTICULAR HIS VISIT TO BERLIN 'MARK THE NEW
(OLD) CENTER OF GRAVITY OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AFTER
THE WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA.' WASHINGTON WOULD
LIKE TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL MISJUDGEMENTS OF THE
VALUE OF U.S. COMMITMENTS AND EMPHASIZE THE DURABILITY
OF ITS ENGAGEMENT IN EUROPE..."

11. DIE WELT (RIGHT-CENTER), MAY 14 (REPORT FROM
WASHINGTON BY HEINZ BARTH): "KISSINGER'S SIGNIFICANT
ST. LOUIS SPEECH CONTAINED EMPHATIC WARNINGS TO THE
SOVIETS, WARNINGS FOR WHICH PEKING MAY HAVE BEEN WAIT-
ING FOR QUITE SOME TIME. HIS CRITICISM OF THE SOVIETS
WAS THE STRONGEST SINCE INITIATION OF THE POLICY OF
EAST-WEST DETENTE. HIS STATEMENT THAT AMERICA'S ALLIES
HAVE FIRST PRIORITY REFLECTS A CLEAR SHIFT OF ACCENT
AWAY FROM GIVING ABSOLUTE PRIORITY TO RELATIONS WITH
MOSCOW."

12. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (CONSERVATIVE/INDEPENDENT),
MAY 9 (REPORT FROM WASHINGTON BY JAN REIFENBERG):
"DESPITE OCCASIONAL CRITICISM OF HIS POLICY, KISSINGER
HAS NEVER LOST SIGHT OF SUCH FIXED ELEMENTS AS THE
ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, THE ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN AND THE
NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING WESTERN MILITARY STRENGTH AS A
BASIS FOR A SUCCESSFUL POLICY OF EAST-WEST DETENTE...
WASHINGTON'S EUROPEAN POLICY WILL BE REFORMULATED
IN THE SENSE OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH THOSE WHO KNOW HOW
TO HELP THEMSELVES. THE SAME APPLIES TO JAPAN AND, IN
A DIFFERENT FORM, TO LATIN AMERICA."
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13. BAVARIAN RADIO, MAY 8, ROLF MENZEL FROM WASHINGTON:
"...RELATIONS WITH THE FRIENDS AND ALLIES MAY NOW EVEN
CHANGE FOR THE BETTER BECAUSE BURDENS HAVE BEEN SHED.
IN THE PACIFIC AREA, JAPAN WILL ASSUME A BIGGER POL-
ITICAL ROLE IN THE STABILIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.
IN EUROPE, U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WILL PROBABLY SEEK, TO
A GREATER EXTENT THAN BEFORE, TO STRENGTHEN THE
ALLIANCE..."

14. DEUTSCHE, MAY 8: IT IS OF WORLDWIDE IMPOR-
TANCE THAT GERALD FORD HAS GIVEN BROAD EMPHASIS TO
AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE, THAT HE HAS REAFFIRMED THE
U.S. PLEDGE OF SOLIDARITY AND SOUGHT TO BALANCE THE
IMPAIRED IMAGE OF THE U.S. BY UNDERSCORING SOLID
STRENGTH. IF AMERICA FOLLOWS ITS PRESIDENT ON THIS
COURSE, MAPPED OUT IN CALM CONFIDENCE IN CLEARLY
ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, THE
INDOCHINA WOUNDS OF THE LEADING WESTERN POWER MIQHT
HEAL SOONER THAN EXPECTED."

15. DIE ZEIT (INDEPENDENT WEEKLY) MAY 7: "ZEALOUSLY,
IN VIEW OF VIETNAM, THE U.S. IN PROPAGATING THE COMPLETE

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R 162015Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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NONSENSE OF THE DOMINO THEORY AND THE FAR-REACHING IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE POLICY AMONG THE BIG POWERS... THIS CONCEPT OVERLOOKS CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS. FOR ONE THING, THE DOMINO THEORY IS NOT MERELY APPLICABLE TO THE MILITARY SPHERE, BUT ALSO ... TO POLITICAL SHIFTS THAT CAN ALTER THE PATTERN OF POWER...

16. SENDER FREIES BERLIN, MAY 5: "AS HARD AS IT MAY SOUND AT THE MOMENT, THE U.S. AGAIN CAN ACT FREELY AND MAY AGAIN FULLY ASSUME ITS ROLE AS THE WEST'S LEADING POWER...IT MAY BE SAFELY ASSUMED THAT NOW THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO ADVOCATE A STRENGTHENING OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WILL INCREASE BECAUSE THEY RIGHTLY SEE (NATO) AS THE MAJOR PILLAR -- ALSO OF AMERICAN SECURITY..."

17 DER SPIEGEL (INDEPENDENT), MAY 5: "THE WORLD LOOKED ON AS THE LAST AMERICANS IN SAIGON RAN TO THE HELICOPTERS. THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM RESEMBLED A FLIGHT. MEANWHILE THE AMERICA'S ALLIES ARE ASKING WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SUPPORT OF A WORLD POWER IS WORTH, IF IT HAS TO ACCEPT, IN VIETNAM, ITS WORST CATASTROPHE IN U.S. HISTORY."

18. SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, (INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL), MAY 2: JOSEF RIEDMILLER: "...AMERICA, PURITANICAL AS IT IS, WILL NOT FALL VICTIM TO SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS...BUT WILL SEEK OUT ITS OWN ERRORS... AFTER THE INITIAL NUMBNESS HAS WORN OFF, THERE WILL BE AN EARNEST HUNT WITHIN THE U.S. FOR THESE ERRORS - A SEARCH WITHIN CONGRESS, TOO, IT IS TO BE HOPED...

"THERE IS BOUND TO BE A REACTION THAT WILL WORK OUT ADVANTAGEOUSLY FOR AMERICA'S ALLIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD..."

19. MAY 2, STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG (INDEP.), FRITZ VON GLOBIG: "THE NOW-ENDED VIETNAM WAR, THOUGH NOT A WORLD WAR, HAD WORLDWIDE EFFECTS HARDLY COMPARABLE TO THE EFFECTS OF ANY OTHER WAR WAGED IN A GEOGRAPHICALLY SO CONSTRICTED AREA....

"CORRESPONDINGLY GREAT ARE THE DIMENSIONS OF U.S.
POLICY'S ERRORS...IN HINDSIGHT, IT SEEMS INCOMPRE-
HENSIBLE THAT THE U.S., ALMOST BLINDLY, GOT INTO THIS
ADVENTURE...BUT THE UNDEBATEABLE MAJOR U.S. RESPONSI-
BILITY...DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE ENTIRELY UNCRITICAL
IDEALIZATION OF HANOI - A HOMAGE THAT IS BEING PAID
BY MANY...IN THE WEST...
HILLENBRAND

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